



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20590

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NHTSA -- 26-72
Tel. 202-426-9550

The Department of Transportation announced today that the General Motors Corporation has agreed to pay \$90,000 in compromise of a civil penalty claim that the company produced and imported into the United States a large number of Opel vehicles with faulty windshield mountings.

Tests conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration showed non-compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 212, the windshield mounting standard. A 1971 Opel Kadett station wagon was subjected to a frontal barrier crash at 30 mph, and the windshield completely separated from the vehicle. The standard requires retention of at least 75 percent of the windshield periphery.

After being notified of NHTSA's initial test failure, General Motors conducted a substantial test program, after which the company promptly initiated a recall campaign involving 1970, 1971, and 1972 Opel Kadett's and Opel Model 1900's. The company notified owners of these models to return their cars to GM dealers so that necessary modifications could be made, at the manufacturer's expense. Approximately 100,000 vehicles were involved.

The Traffic Safety Agency has notified the manufacturer that it is closing its files on the case.

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